

**DRUG  
ENFORCEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION**



**What You Should Know About  
MARIJUANA**



DEA PHOTO

**FACT:** People who began using marijuana before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop problem use.

Source: [www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana)

**FACT: Daily use today can have stronger effects on a developing teen brain than it did 10 or 20 years ago.** The amount of the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, THC, has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. For a new user, this may mean exposure to higher THC levels with a greater chance of a harmful reaction. Higher levels of THC may mean a higher risk for addiction.

Source: [www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana)

**FACT:** Smoking marijuana interferes with learning and memory, increasing the risk of poor grades and dropping out of school. Research shows it can lower your IQ if you smoke it regularly in your teen years.

Source: [www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/some-things-to-think-about](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/some-things-to-think-about)

**FACT:** Teen marijuana use has **increased** as the **perceived harm** of smoking marijuana has **decreased**.

- In **2008, 32.4%** of high school seniors reported marijuana use in the past year; **25.8%** perceived great risk in smoking marijuana occasionally.

- In **2015, 34.9%** of high school seniors reported marijuana use in the past year; **15.8%** perceived great risk in using marijuana.

Source: NIDA, 2015 Monitoring the Future.

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## DRIVING AND MARIJUANA USE

### TRUE OR FALSE?

- Marijuana can decrease a person's ability to drive a car. **TRUE**
- Marijuana affects certain skills required for driving – reaction time, alertness, concentration, and coordination. **TRUE**

Source: [www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/some-things-to-think-about](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/some-things-to-think-about)

## TEENS AND MARIJUANA

- 80% of high school seniors reported it was **fairly easy or very easy** to get marijuana.

Source: NIDA, 2015 Monitoring the Future.

- **7.0%** of adolescents aged 12-17 smoked marijuana in the past month.

Source: SAMHSA, 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

# DRUGGED DRIVING

**WARNING**  
Acute marijuana use can impair driving by affecting critical thinking and motor skills.

Large number of U.S. high school (HS) seniors and college students put themselves and others at great risks of harm by driving after using illicit drugs or drinking alcohol.

**NIH** SEE MORE...  
National Institute on Drug Abuse [www.drugabuse.gov/trends-statistics/infographics/drugged-driving](http://www.drugabuse.gov/trends-statistics/infographics/drugged-driving)

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For drug prevention information, visit DEA's websites:



[GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)  
*For parents, caregivers, and educators*

[JustThinkTwice.com](http://JustThinkTwice.com)  
*For teens*

[dea.gov](http://dea.gov)